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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Production and Departments of the Zbrojovka Machine and Armament Factory (Strojirna a Zbrojovka) at Povazsko Bystrica

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1. "A machine and armament factory (Strojirna a Zbrojovka) is located at Pavazska Bystrica on the Vah River in western Slovakia. About 6,500 to 7,000 workers are employed.
2. "A large part of the output is sent to the USSR and to the other Cominform countries as well as to the West via Italy.
3. "The factory is now mainly engaged in producing two-barrel anti-aircraft guns of 37-mm calibre. These anti-aircraft guns are similar to those used by the Germans at the end of World War II. In January 1952 one department started mass production of a new type of Bazooka (Panzerfaust). This type is similar to the war-time Panzerfaust, but the barrel is constructed in such a way as to enable the loading of a new rocket-propelling cartridge and a new missile of considerable steel-piercing strength. The sight of the weapon is similar to that of the old German Panzerfaust. This new weapon represents a permanent firing weapon whereas the previous types were made to be used once only.
4. "The steel for this factory, which was previously imported mostly from Belgium and Sweden, is now being supplied by the Vitkovice Steel Works. Electricity is supplied by the Ilava plant.
5. "The manager of the factory is Ing Jaroslav Kubik, a Czech engineer. The head of the social-political department is Bohuslav Holly. He used to work as an accordian player at the Bratislava Radio Station and has no qualifications for his present job. The chairman of the factory Trade Union Council is (fnu) Stefanec, who worked at a turning lathe before his appointment to this post. The head of the factory Militia is (fnu) Bristensky, who is a staunch Communist.

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6. "The factory has the following workshops:

No 63 - Production of 'MANET' motorcycles.

No 62 - Production of refrigerators for home use. These refrigerators run badly and are really almost useless. They sell for 36,000 Crowns each. According to plans, this department is to be moved to Zlate Moravice during the first half of this year. Rifles will be produced instead.

Wire-shed (dratovna) - Production of copper, zinc and lead wire from 2 mm to 2 cm thick.

No 7 - Production of so-called preparatory instruments (pripravky, known as forrichtung in the factory slang). These include stencils, measuring instruments and parts for turning lathes. The department is headed by Ing Dusek. All the foremen are expert technicians.

No 24 - Production of cartridge-cases for artillery and anti-aircraft guns of all calibres.

No 25 - Production of spare parts for motorcycles. Also production of special milk containers. A shed with 14 hydraulic presses is attached to this workshop.

Gun-shed (delovna) - An engineering construction department where new parts for artillery purposes, especially cartridge cases and ammunition, are designed and produced.

Hardening shed (kalirna) - One of the best-equipped departments. Has 10 new Siemens-Martin furnaces. The working processes here are well organized and mechanized.

Welding shed (svarovna) - Welding work for the entire plant. Apparatus includes 20 electrical welding machines.

Mechanical workshop (rezijsni dilna) - Production of spare parts for the factory cars, repair work on boilers, etc. Fills occasional orders from other factories.

Tinsmith's shop (dlempirna) - During the summer and fall of 1951 this shop filled a large order for gasoline tanks for military purposes.

Joiner's workshop - Production of various articles for the factory, such as furniture.

Testing Chamber - Tests of all materials used in production.

No 6 - Production of cartridges for all types of rifles and pistols.

No 3 - Assembly of cartridges

No 44 - Assembly and finishing of guns.

No 46 - Storage chambers for gunpowder, above ground.

No 56 - Assembly and finishing of motorcycles (Type 98 cu. cm., costing 48,000 Crowns each). A testing track is attached.

7. "There are also:

Underground stores for ammunition and gunpowder.

Chemical laboratories.

Storerooms for finished products.

Shooting range for testing ammunition produced.

An administrative building with offices for the management, the Trade Union Council, the cadres department, planning department, financial department and the security department.

8. "The factory is guarded at all times by Militia patrols. The militiamen wear khaki-colored uniforms with a badge on the right shoulder. The badge shows a green cross on a white ground with green border. The militiamen are armed with rifles and sub-machine guns.
9. "The factory premises are surrounded by a barbed wire fence, 3 m. high, the top of which is reinforced with barbed wire."

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